

4-084

Riders hurt after object is thrown from car

ROAD policing officers are appealing for witnesses to a crash on the Colchester bound track of the A12 at Witham about 9pm on Tuesday.

An item thrown from the window of a silver, Transit sized, van caused a motor cyclist to swerve and lose control, and collide with the central barrier.

The van had the words 'Enterprise Rental' across the back.

The 45-year-old rider of the green Suzuki and his pillion passenger wife, also 45, and both from Colchester, were taken to Colchester hospital.

He was admitted with arm and leg fractures, and she was

released after treatment.

The carriageway was closed for about an hour and 20 minutes.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or can help identify the van involved is asked to contact police at Boreham on 0300 333 4444, where the officer dealing is PC Alex Black.



Why the Mayor's mounting up

CASTLE Point Mayor, Councillor Cliff Brunt, got on his bike this week to mark the three year milestone towards the Borough's involvement in the 2012 London Olympics.

August 11 and 12, 2012 will see the Olympic mountain biking event taking place at Hadleigh Farm in the Borough of Castle Point.

The 550-acre site was chosen for its

hilly terrain and open grass land covered with low shrubbery.

It offers perfect gradients for mountain biking with the backdrop of the 700-year-old ruins of Hadleigh Castle.

"It's really great for the Borough to be playing a significant part in what promises to be a spectacular Olympics," said Cllr Brunt.

news in brief

Talking Tories

A CONTINGENT of Conservatives, led by the new Conservative candidate for Parliament, Rebecca Harris, have been seeking both residents and local businesses views upon the proposed one way system at Benfleet Train Station.

The County Council proposal to ease traffic congestion at the rear of the Station would see the introduction of a one way system in the High Street with vehicle access directed via School Lane and Station Road.

Ms Harris said: "As a regular Benfleet commuter I know that the approach to the station is awkward, so it is right that the County Council is investigating options to improve it. As with the A13 bus lanes idea, which was rightly rejected, what is important is that decisions are based on local opinion and real local knowledge."

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Council's pledge that eviction will happen

THE leader of Basildon Council has declared the authority won't halt its plans to evict illegal travellers from controversial sites.

Some of the travellers mounted a protest with flags and banners in Basildon on Monday when they also handed over a message to the authority.

The 'legal memorandum' delivered to the Council's offices in St Martin's Square by travellers from Dale Farm in Billericay and Hovefields Drive in Wickford set out a list of alternatives to eviction as well as a number of things the travellers would do if they were 'forced' off the sites.

The memo, addressed to Bala Mahendran, Chief Executive of Basildon District Council said: "In support of the wishes of the residents of Dale Farm, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions demands that the Basildon Council refrains from evicting them and instead ensure that protective measures be put in place to safeguard their fundamental rights.

"Not only would Basildon Council avoid the cost of providing new pitches by



■ The protest outside Basildon Council offices.

giving planning permission for the ones that already exist they could avoid spending three million pounds on an eviction and demolition operation, money that could be used for improving

the living conditions of the whole population of Basildon in a more constructive way.

"The Council should assume that if the eviction is carried out, those at Dale Farm

forced to leave their land will have to resort to camping on the roadside, on public car parks or private land."

However, Council leader Tony Ball said: "Whilst we respect everyone's right to protest, it will not change the Council's position on the eviction.

"We are disappointed that this protest is taking place because we are negotiating with the travellers to find the most agreeable arrangements for their departure from the site.

"We remain hopeful that the travellers will take up the services we have offered to help them move."

The first enforcement notices for eviction in the long-running saga were served by the Council in 2001 and there have been numerous appeals against them.

Cllr Ball added: "We believe this is in the best interests of residents and are committed to restoring these sites back to green belt land.

"We hope to achieve this by working positively with the travellers to assist them in relocating peacefully."

Cops
issue

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